



November 18, 2005

Dear Friends:

Shortly before 2:00am this morning in Washington, Republican leaders in the U.S. House rammed through a fiscally irresponsible budget bill by a vote of 215-217. While millions of Americans struggle to pay for college, healthcare and spiraling home heating costs, Republicans chose to cut \$50 billion from vital services to pay for \$70 billion in tax give-aways for the wealthiest Americans, increasing the deficit by \$20 billion. These cuts include:

- Over [\\$14.3 billion in cuts to federal student aid programs](#) - the largest cuts in history
- \$11.9 billion cuts to Medicaid; a majority of the recipients are children, the disabled and elderly
- 300,000 Americans will be taken off food stamps

This is another indictment of the Republican leadership's willingness to



cast aside the most vulnerable members of society - seniors, children and students - in favor of special tax breaks for wealthy investors and political donors.

Congresswoman McCollum joined members of the [Global Action for Children Coalition](#) to celebrate the signing into law of The Assistance for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children in Developing Countries Act of 2005.

Earlier this week, I hosted a Congressional Global Health Caucus briefing on the United Nations response to the avian flu. Dr. David Nabarro, the U.N. System Coordinator for Avian and Human Influenza, addressed members of Congress and staff about an effective and coordinated global effort to control the epidemic of avian influenza. Read the [Voice of America article](#) on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Betty", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress
Serving Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District

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